

**STATE PLAN
FOR
INDEPENDENT LIVING
(SPIL)
AMENDMENT**

**Chapter 1, Title VII of the Rehabilitation
Act of 1973, as Amended**

Tennessee Division of Rehabilitation Services (TDRS)

STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (SILC)

Centers for Independent Living (CIL)

FISCAL YEARS 2014-2016

3.2 Expansion of Network

Describe the design for the further expansion of the network, including identification of the unserved and underserved areas in the State and the order of priority for serving these areas as additional funding becomes available (beyond the required cost-of-living increase).

Plans for expanding the network of centers for independent living are to have as many established throughout the state as necessary in order to cover relatively small geographical areas in such a way as to maximize efficient use of funding. This will allow more persons with significant disabilities to participate in IL services because of easier access to CILs. Tennessee is a very rural state with virtually no access for many with disabilities to transportation and the electronic superhighway. Tennessee uses \$200,000.00 as the minimum level for a fully funded center because there are many unfunded IL counties in the State.

Part C ARRA funds were used for competition to establish the new Part C center, Training, Advocacy, Referral & Peer Support (TARP), in the following North West/Middle Tennessee counties: Benton, Dickson, Henry, Houston, Humphreys, Montgomery, Stewart and Weakley, at \$200,000 a year over a 5 year period. These counties include approximately 59,084 persons with disabilities. The remaining part C ARRA funds are being distributed equally between four (4) of the existing part C centers: Center for Independent Living of Middle Tennessee, Disability Resource Center, Jackson Center for Independent Living and Memphis Center for Independent Living to address the underserved populations in their service areas. No ARRA Part C funds were distributed to the Chattanooga center, Tri-State Resource and Advocacy, Inc., because that center declined to participate in discussions with the DSU, SILC, and the other Part C centers regarding the distribution of the ARRA Part C funds.

Other priority counties are identified in 1-5 below and will be considered for a new CIL when at least \$100,000 in State or Federal funding opportunities becomes available.

Top five priority counties:

(1) Northeast Tennessee counties of Sullivan, Johnson, Carter, Washington, Unicoi, Greene, Hawkins, Hancock, Claiborne;

(2) East Tennessee counties of Campbell, Cocke, Union, Anderson, Roane, Loudon, Monroe, Blount, Sevier, Jefferson, Grainger and Hamblen;

(3) Cumberland Plateau including counties of Morgan, Scott, Pickett, Clay, Macon, Jackson, Smith, Dekalb, Trousdale, White, Cannon, Van Buren, Cumberland, Fentress, Overton, and Putnam;

(4) South Central counties including Hickman, Perry, Maury, Lewis, Wayne, Lawrence, Giles, Marshall, Lincoln, Moore, Bedford, Coffee, Franklin and Warren;

(5) West (North/South) Tennessee counties of Obion, Lake, Lauderdale, Tipton, Fayette, McNairy, Hardin, Decatur and Dyer;

Additional CILs will be started after a CIL -- established with seed funding of \$100,000 annually reaches \$200,000 in Part C Annual funding. Tennessee uses \$200,000.00 as the minimum level for a fully funded center because there are many unfunded IL counties in the State. Most of the Tennessee CILs started their centers with less than \$200,000.00 and were able to operate and comply with all applicable regulations.

The most significant barrier toward expansion of the network of CILs continues to be a lack of funding. The SILC will support the CILs in pursuing funding from the State for independent living services.

If additional regular Part B funds become available in an amount less than \$100,000, that funding will be distributed in an equitable manner as determined by the SILC and DSU to Part C centers actively participating in the SPIL and the network of centers to provide outreach services to the unserved in the top five priority areas and/or underserved areas as determined by the SILC. DRC is providing a limited number of core services in four North East Tennessee counties with part B funding.

If additional regular Part C funds in excess of the COLA are in the amount less than \$100,000 becomes available Tennessee has agreed that RSA should distribute these funds equally to the existing Part C CILs.

The SILC and DSU are recommending that Title VII, Part-C funds allocated to a Tennessee center remains in Tennessee in the event of the closing of one of the network of Part C funded centers. The DSU and SILC will recommend that RSA use the funds to conduct a competition for a new center in the catchment areas served by the Part C funded center that closed.